

Attorney Docket No. 23311.00

IN THE APPLICATION

OF

MELINDA MILLER

FOR A

TWO-SIDED TOILET BRUSH

TWO-SIDED TOILET BRUSH

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates generally to cleaning implements. More specifically, the invention is a scrub brush for cleaning toilets having hard bristles and a sponge pad on opposites sides.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

10 The related art of interest describes various toilet cleaning utensils, but none describes the present invention. There is a need for a dual purpose cleaning utensil that can scrub and wipe off the scrubbed debris from a toilet bowl. The related art will be discussed in the order of perceived relevance to the present invention.

15 U.S. Patent No. 5,878,459 issued on March 9, 1999, to Kelly McParland describes a toilet brush having a cylindrical scrubbing pad portion and a cylindrical bristle brush on the same longitudinal axis and extending from a handle having a flexible connection. The toilet brush is distinguishable for requiring a
20 specific flexible handle and the scrubber and brush on the same longitudinal axis.

U.S. Design Patent No. 337,659 issued on July 27, 1993, to Danny Lacy describes a combined cleaning brush and sponge

attached on opposite sides of a flattened handle having a ribbed bottom and an inclined portion adjacent the cleaning portion. The device is distinguishable for omitting apertures in the brush and sponge portions.

5 U.S. Patent No. 2,879,532 issued on March 31, 1959, to Gyoza Szabo et al. describes a utility cleaner and brush device comprising an annular ring base supporting a brush and a hinged sponge pad secured by a cloth sheet having an abrasive coating. A wire handle is attached to the annular ring by a wire clamp.
10 The device is distinguishable for requiring an abrasive cover for the sponge.

U.S. Patent No. 1,510,898 issued on October 7, 1924, to Francis G. Nikicsner describes a combination brush and aligned felt pads on one end of a handle having bristles at its opposite
15 end. The device is distinguishable for requiring an additional brush on the end of the handle and felt pads.

U.S. Patent No. 4,967,441 issued on November 6, 1990, to Robert A. White describes a toilet bowl brush comprising a wire loop frame, supporting encompassing bristles, and an elongated
20 handle converted temporarily into a steel wool brush by an adaptor spider which embraces the larger dimension of the brush and projects a forwardly and upwardly canted lance upon which a steel wool pad is impaled to enable under-the-rim scrubbing. The device is distinguishable for requiring a lance having a steel wool pad extending from the brush.

25 U.S. Design Patent No. 236,564 issued on September 2, 1975, to Jack W. Kaufman describes an ornamental combined brush and

sponge for surgical scrubbing comprising a rectangular base with a sponge and brush on opposite sides thereof. The brush bristles are arranged in a longitudinal design with three rows of long bristles having shorter bristles between the rows. The device is distinguishable for requiring distinctive rows of bristles of varying length.

U.S. Design Patent No. 354,626 issued on January 24, 1995, to Joseph B. Hurwitz describes an ornamental combined brush and sponge applicator having a handle. The sponge overlaps one end of the handle stick. The brush layer overlaps the sponge. The device is distinguishable for requiring the overlapping of a bristle layer over a doubled up sponge layer.

U.S. Design Patent No. 358,487 issued on May 23, 1995, to Margaret J. Kneesch et al. describes an ornamental combined pad and brush cleaning implement comprising a bristle brush and a sponge pad connected together at a right angle on a long handle. The sponge pad can be lowered by a slidable collar connection on the handle. The implement is distinguishable for requiring a slidable collar connection on the handle for manipulating the sponge pad relative to the brush pad.

U.S. Patent No. 3,531,814 issued on October 6, 1970, to Harold Safalow describes a toe cleaning device comprising a conically shaped toe cleaning member that is half brush and half sponge mounted on a rod. The device is distinguishable for requiring a conical shaped half brush and half sponge cleaning end.

U.S. Patent No. 4,802,782 issued on February 7, 1989, to James Scalf describes a cleaning tool for carpets comprising an agitating rake-like brush head and a sponge head on separate connections to a handle ending in a Y-shape. A reservoir of cleaning fluid is attached to the handle and released via a trigger on the handle. The tool is distinguishable for requiring the brush and sponge to be on separate heads.

U.S. Patent No. 4,961,733 issued on October 9, 1990, to Peter M. Joseph et al. describes a foot cleaning and chemical applicator device comprising a curved handle supporting a small conical sponge at its head and a nylon bristle brush adjacent. The device is distinguishable for requiring the separate locations of the sponge and brush.

U.S. Patent No. 5,960,509 issued on October 5, 1999, to Chia-Wao Hu describes a multi-functional back brush having three oval cleaning or massaging interchangeable heads. One oval head has a sponge layer topped by a scour pad. The second head has sponge layer covered by a towel cloth. The third head has multiple rolling ball heads on legs. The brush is distinguishable for failing to require a brush and sponge on opposite sides of a base.

U.S. Patent No. 6,178,581 B1 issued on January 30, 2001, to Larry J. Lewis describes a mop scrubber adapter device for a scrub brush attachment to a butterfly sponge mop at a right angle to the mop. The device is distinguishable for requiring a perpendicular arrangement of the brush and sponge.

U.S. Patent No. 6,202,246 B1 issued on March 20, 2001, to Laura Boucher describes a multi-purpose scrub mop comprising a triangular shaped head having bristles at the apex and adjacent to the sponge base. The device is distinguishable for requiring the requiring the sponge and brush portions to be arranged adjacent and aligned together.

U.S. Patent No. 6,289,547 B1 issued on September 18, 2001, to Vinold Narula et al. describes a surgical scrub device comprises a semi-rigid flattened square sponge body having bristles on two opposite edges. The device is distinguishable for requiring the sponge body to have bristles on two opposite edges.

U.K. Patent No. 241,254 published on October 20, 1925, for Hans Hansen describes a cleaning pad for leather comprising a wooden handled stock having a rectangular rubber pad and a wire brush on opposite sides at one end. The device is distinguishable for requiring a rubber pad and a wire brush.

None of the above inventions and patents, taken either singly or in combination, is seen to describe the instant invention as claimed. Thus a two sided toilet brush solving the aforementioned problems is desired.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The two-sided toilet brush is a cleaning device for cleaning toilet bowls in homes, municipal buildings and in commercial buildings. The brush has a double function in abrasive cleaning with a stiff nylon bristle brush on one side of the convex-shaped

head portion and a soft but durable cellulose and the like sponge portion on the opposite concave head side. The head portion has a triangular shape and a small triangular aperture with its apex attached to an angular plastic handle having a slot in its distal end for hanging to dry. The bristle brush portion is inclined at approximately 15 degrees toward the handle. The handle portion has a gentle curvature with its radial axis opposite to the radial axis of the head portion.

Accordingly, it is a principal object of the invention to provide a toilet cleaning implement having a dual cleaning function.

It is another object of the invention to provide a toilet cleaning implement having a stiff bristle portion on a side of a head support.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a toilet cleaning implement having a soft and durable sponge portion on the opposite side of the head support.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a slightly curved handle opposite in curvature to that of the brush.

It is an object of the invention to provide improved elements and arrangements thereof for the purposes described which is inexpensive, dependable and fully effective in accomplishing its intended purposes.

These and other objects of the present invention will become readily apparent upon further review of the following specification and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is side perspective view of a two-sided toilet brush device according to the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a front perspective view of the two-sided toilet brush device showing the bristle brush element according to the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a rear perspective view of the two-sided toilet brush device illustrating the sponge brush element according to the present invention.

Similar reference characters denote corresponding features consistently throughout the attached drawings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The present invention is directed in FIGS. 1 to 3 to a two-sided toilet brush device 10 having an increased ergonomic capacity to scrub and clean a toilet. An elongated slightly curved handle 12 has at its head end a triangular shaped base 14 having a triangular aperture 16 supporting a bristle brush 18 on one side and a sponge 20 on the opposite side. The triangular aperture 16 is advantageous in allowing any undesirable debris collected to be rinsed off more effectively to increase the cleaning action of the cleaned brush 18 and/or the sponge 20.

The handle 12 is attached to the base 14 at an included angle of approximately 30 degrees with the bristle brush 18.

From the notch 22 to the opposite end 24 of the handle 12, the handle is slightly curved and enlarged in its mid-section. A slotted aperture 26 is provided for hanging the device 10 to dry or store when not being used.

5 The bristle brush 18 can have bristles made of nylon and the like stiff plastic materials. The base 14 and the handle 12 can also be made of molded nylon and like plastic materials. The sponge 20 can be made of purified cellulose and like materials.

10 Thus, an ergonomic two-sided toilet brush providing a sponge and bristle brush on opposite sides with apertures, and on a curved handle having a hanging aperture has been shown.

It is to be understood that the present invention is not limited to the embodiment described above, but encompasses any and all embodiments within the scope of the following claims.